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EXAMINER

BILGRAMI, ASGHAR H

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

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DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 6/4/2007 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

2. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

3. Claims 21-30 31 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 for being non statutory. Based on applicant's disclosure on paragraph 114 of the specification regarding the computer usable medium is not defined and may appear to constitute to carrier wave which is non-statutory. Examiner has shown one way to over come this rejection.

Claim 21:

A computer program product stored on a computer readable medium for use in a peer-to-peer collaboration system.....

4. Claim 31 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 for being non statutory because a data signal embodied in a carrier wave is non-statutory.

Claim 31:

A method stored on a computer readable medium for use in a peer-to-peer collaboration system with memory.....

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Donohue et al (U.S. 6,199,204 B1) and Parthesarathy et al (U.S. 6,353,926 B1).

7. As per claims 1 & 11 Donohue disclosed apparatus adapted for use in a peer-to peer collaboration system (col.7, lines 12-25), the apparatus comprising a computer system with a memory and a computer-readable medium having computer executable modules, the computer-executable modules comprising: an activity program adapted to implement a portion of a collaboration session, the activity program maintaining a local data copy of a shared space in response to user actions within the collaboration system (col.3, lines 15-21, col.4, lines 15- 22 & col.9, lines 51-54), and the activity program generating a component update request in response

to an action by user within the session; a component manager that receives the component update request from the activity program (col.5, lines 1-10) , and has a parser that extracts from the request URL information which identifies the location of a file containing software component resources for satisfying the component update request (col.8, lines 25-47 & figure.3), wherein the component manager is adapted to determine whether the requested software component is already installed on the computer system and to selectively invoke the download manager based on the determination (col.8, lines 64-67 & col.9, lines 1-9), whereby the computer system can use the component to maintain a second local data copy of the shared space that is synchronized with first local data copy (col.5, lines 17-35). However, Donohue did not explicitly disclose a download manager that receives the URL information from the component manager and has a file retriever which asynchronously retrieves the file from the specified location, places the file in a staging area in the memory; and an install manager that asynchronously install the file. In the same field of endeavor Parthesarathy disclosed a download manager that receives the URL information from the component manager and has a file retriever which asynchronously retrieves the file from the specified location and places the file in a staging area in the memory and notifies the component manager; and an install manager that is instructed by the component manager to asynchronously install the file in the staging area; and an install manager the asynchronously installs the file (col.5, lines 61-67 & col.6, lines 1-13 & lines 14-31).

It would have been obvious to one in the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated a component manager asynchronously retrieving file from a specified location as disclosed by Parthesarathy into an apparatus for managing software component update as disclosed by Donohue in order to provide the software/data transfer in a more efficient

and secure manner and as a result make the software component apparatus more stable and prone to unauthorized users.

8. As per claims 2, 12, 22 & 33 Donohue-Parthesarathy disclosed the apparatus of claim 1 wherein: the peer-to-peer collaboration system comprises a first peer device and a second peer device; and the activity program comprises a first activity program and is installed on the first peer device; the system comprises a second activity device program installed on the second peer device; and the action by the user comprises interaction with the second activity program (col. (Donoghue, col.3, lines 50-67 & col.4, lines 1-36).

9. As per claims 3, 13, 23 & 34 Donohue-Parthesarathy disclosed the apparatus of claim 1 wherein the component manager comprises a security section that validates the file before installation (Parthesarathy, col.8, lines 53-65).

10. As per claims 4, 14, 24 & 35 Donohue-Parthesarathy disclosed the apparatus of claim 1 further comprises a manifest contains a list of all software components installed on the computer system (Donohue , col.8, lines 64-67 & col.9, lines 1-9).

11. As per claims 5, 15, 25 & 36 Donohue-Parthesarathy disclosed the apparatus of claim 4 wherein the component manager comprises a mechanism that responds to the request by checking the manifest to ascertain whether the requested software component is already installed on the computer system (Donohue , col.8, lines 64-67 & col.9, lines 1-9).

12. As per claims 6, 16, 26 & 37 Donohue-Parthesarathy disclosed the apparatus of claim 1 wherein the component manager comprising a polling mechanism that periodically polls component locations to locate new component version (Parthesarathy, col.5, lines 61-67 & col.6, lines 1-10).

13. As per claims 7, 17, 27 & 38 Donohue-Parthesarathy disclosed the apparatus of claim 5 wherein the software component may be a system component that is required for operation of the apparatus or an application component that is not required for operation of the apparatus and wherein the apparatus further comprises a system component manager that receives a request for the system component and a system component installer that is started by the system component manager (Parthesarathy, col.5, lines 61-67 & col.6, lines 1-67) .

14. As per claims 8, 18, 28 & 39 Donohue-Parthesarathy disclosed the apparatus of claim 2 wherein the activity program generates the update request in response to receiving an invitation for a user to join the collaboration session, the invitation being generated in response to an action by a user within the collaboration session (Donohue, col.1, lines 51-67 & col.1, lines 1-2 & col.7, lines 22-25).

15. As per claims 9, 19, 29 & 40 Donohue-Parthesarathy disclosed the apparatus of claim 1 wherein the activity program generates the update request in response to receiving an update

delta for the collaboration session, the update delta being generated in response to an action by a user within the collaboration session. (Donohue, col.7, lines 12-25).

16. As per claims 10, 20, 30 & 41 Donohue-Parthesarathy disclosed the apparatus of claim 7 wherein the component manager comprises an activation factory for activating installed software components (Donohue, col.8, lines 64-67 & col.9, lines 1-9).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

17. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

18. Claims 21, 31 & 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Varma et al (U.S. 6,334,141 B1) and Parthesarathy et al (U.S. 6,353,926 B1).

19. As per claims 21, 31 & 32 Varma disclosed apparatus for use in a peer-to-peer collaboration system comprising a computer system with memory and at least one other computer system maintaining a first local data copy of a shared space, the apparatus comprising: means for implementing a collaboration session for a user, the means for implementing adapted to receive an indication of a component in use within the collaboration session involving at least one other computer system (see figure 1 and title of Varma) and to selectively generate an update

request for the component (col.5, lines 16-67 & col.6, lines 1-27): means responsive to the request, for parsing the request to extract from the request URL information which identifies the location of a file containing software component resources for satisfying the request (col.11, lines 38-54), whereby the computer system can use the component to maintain a second data copy of the shared space that is synchronized with the first data copy (col.2, lines 66-67, col.3, lines 1-6 & col.5, lines 16-46). However Verma did not explicitly disclose means for receiving the URL information and asynchronously retrieving the file from the identified location; and means cooperating with the parsing means for asynchronously installing the component from the file. In the same filed of endeavor Parthesarathy disclosed means for receiving the URL information and asynchronously retrieving the file from the identified location; and means cooperating with the parsing means for asynchronously installing the component from the file. It would have been obvious to one in the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated a component manager asynchronously retrieving file from the identified location as disclosed by Parthesarathy into an apparatus for managing software component update as disclosed by Verma in order to provide the software/data transfer in a more efficient and secure manner and as a result make the software component apparatus more stable and prone to unauthorized users.

20. As per claims 22 & 33 Varma - Parthesarathy disclosed the apparatus of claim 32 wherein the file contains an OSD description of the software component resources (Parthesarathy, col.6, lines 33-59).

21. As per claims 23 & 34 Varma - Parthesarathy disclosed the apparatus of claim 32 wherein the parsing means comprises means for validating the file before installation (Parthesarathy, col.8, lines 53-65).

22. As per claims 24 & 35 Varma - Parthesarathy disclosed the apparatus of claim 32 further comprises a manifest which contains a list of all software components installed on the computer system (Varma, col.1, lines 12-34).

23. As per claims 25 & 36 Varma - Parthesarathy disclosed the apparatus of claim 35 wherein the parsing means comprises means responsive to the request for checking the manifest to ascertain whether the requested software component is already installed on the computer system (Varma, col.1, lines 12-34).

24. As per claims 26 & 37 Varma - Parthesarathy disclosed the apparatus of claim 32 wherein the parsing means comprises means for periodically polling component locations to locate new component version (Parthesarathy, col.5, lines 61-67 & col.6, lines 1-10).

25. As per claims 27 & 38 Varma - Parthesarathy disclosed the apparatus of claim 32 wherein the software component may be a system component that is required for operation of the apparatus or an application component that is not required for operation of the apparatus and wherein the apparatus further comprises a system component manager that receives a request for

the system component and a system component installer that is started by the system component manager (Parthesarathy, col.5, lines 61-67 & col.6, lines 1-67) .

26. As per claims 28 & 39 Varma - Parthesarathy disclosed the apparatus of claim 38 wherein the system component installer comprises means for shutting the system component manager down before installing an in-use component (Varma, col.2, lines 43-67 & col.3, lines 1-6).

27. As per claims 29 & 40 Varma - Parthesarathy disclosed the apparatus of claim 39 wherein the system controller comprises means for restarting the system component manager after system component has been installed (Varma, col.5, lines 16-67 & col.6, lines 1-27)

28. As per claims 30 & 41 Varma - Parthesarathy disclosed the apparatus of claim 32 wherein the parsing means comprises means for activating installed software components (Varma, col.1, lines 12-34).

Response to Arguments

29. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-41 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection with respect to the amended claims.

30. Examiner again advises the applicant to specify the “**nature of the activity**” in all the independent claims to make claims narrower. Please see the interview summary of March-9-2007. Such action will move this case forward in a positive direction.

31. Applicant argued that the newly amended limitations are not disclosed in the prior art applied by the examiner.

32. As to applicant’s argument the examiner has cited the relevant passages of the prior art that read on the amended limitations in the rejection above.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Asghar Bilgrami whose telephone number is 571-272-3907. The examiner can normally be reached on 9-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, Nathan J. Flynn can be reached on 571-272-1915. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

NATHAN L. PAIR
SUPERVISOR
PATENT EXAMINER

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